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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: SCHOFIELD
Serial No.: n/a
Filed: Contemporaneous Herewith
Entitled: Vacuum Pumping System and Method of Operating
a Vacuum Pumping Arrangement
Atty. Dkt.: M02B160

Group Art Unit: n/a
Examiner: n/a

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner's attention is directed to the documents identified on the attached Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B "Information Disclosure Statement By Applicant." A copy of each non-US patent document is enclosed.

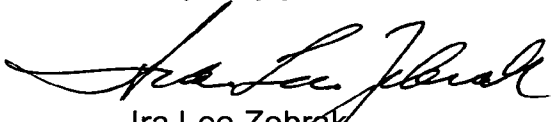
Please consider all the listed documents and list them on the cover sheet of any patents to issue from the subject application.

The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application or within three months of the date of entry of the National Phase of an international application or before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(b), no additional fee is due. As a precaution, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 02-2865 any fee required by this submission.

Very truly yours,

Date: May 26, 2005
The BOC Group, Inc.
Legal Services - Intellectual Property
575 Mountain Avenue
Murray Hill, NJ 07974
(908) 771-6469


Ira Lee Zebrak
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 31,147

Attachments
Forms PTO/SB/08A & PTO/SB/08B
Cited References

PVN:bjl

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /C.B./

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Sheet	1	of	3
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Filing Date

First Named Inventor

SCHOFIELD

Art Unit

Examiner Name _____

Attorney Docket Number

M02B160

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	3	EP 1 234 982 A	08-28-2002	Varian S.p.A.		
	4	DE 199 13 593 A 1	10-05-2000	ILMVAC GmbH		
	5	DE 101 14 969 A 1	10-10-2002	Leybold Vakuum		
	6	DE 100 32 607 A 1	01-24-2002	Leo Elektrone..		
	7	DE 100 43 783 A 1	03-14-2002	Leybold Vakuum		
	8	EP 0 898 083 A2	02-24-1999	BOC Group plc		

Date _____

Considered

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	9	JP 5033044	02-09-1993	Daido Steel Co		

Date Considered

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PTO/SB/08B (08-03)
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Filing Date

First Named Inventor

SCHOFIELD

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Sheet	3
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Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.

 T^2

10

United Kingdom Search Report for Application No. GB 0229353.8; Date of search: July 16, 2003

11

International Search Report for International Application No. PCT/GB
03/05380; Date of mailing of the International search report: March 18, 2004

Examiner
Signature

/Christopher Bobish/

Date
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09/23/2008

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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